

CurrentEvents

TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR THIS ISSUE

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WORDS IN THE NEWS

Below are some key words used in this issue of Current Events. Knowing their meanings will be helpful in understanding recent news events.

► Conquistador (page 2).

Conquistadors were Spanish and Portuguese leaders who explored and conquered lands in America in the 1500s. The name 'conquistador' comes from the Spanish word for "conqueror." Hernan Cortes and Francisco Pizarro were the most famous conquistadors.

In 1504, Cortes settled Hispaniola (Santa Domingo) and in 1511 he helped in the conquest of Cuba. In 1519, he headed for the Yucatan. There he encountered the Aztec empire, which he conquered in 1521. In later years, he explored Honduras and parts of lower California.

Pizarro explored Peru in expeditions in 1524-1525 and 1526-1528 and discovered the Inca Empire. In 1532, Pizarro arrived in Peru with 180 men and conquered the Incas. In 1535 he founded the city of Lima as the new capital of Peru.

► DNA (page 2). Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is one of the two types of nucleic acids. (Ribonucleic acids, or RNA, are the other.) DNA is a highly complex molecule found in the nucleus of almost all living cells. DNA and RNA transmit all genetic information in the cells. Genetics determine the characteristics of an organism.

Using an X-ray image obtained by Maurice Wilkins in 1951, Francis Crick and James Dewey Watson were the first to construct a model of the DNA molecule in 1953. The DNA molecule is a long chemical thread made up of two strands that are held together as a pair, in the shape of a spiral or double helix.

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ANSWERS

Student Edition Key News Facts

1. B 2. A 3. B 4. A
5. B

Word Link

1. B 2. A 3. B 4. C
5. B

News Map of the Week

1. C 2. B 3. C 4. B
5. A

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